

HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY H. A. LONGMAN.

DURING the last few months opportunity has been provided for a more systematic arrangement of the reference collection of Snakes and Lizards in this Museum. When completed this will give facilities which have not previously existed for herpetological work. In this process, and in the working up of new specimens, material has been afforded for the following notes.

DENISONIA FENESTRATA, De Vis.*

This is identical with *Glyphodon tristis*, Gunther, of which De Vis had probably no specimens with typical markings available for comparative purposes. An examination of a series of six specimens of this snake brings to light but little variation. It may be noted, however, that one example from British New Guinea has three only of the lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields.

DENISONIA FORRESTI, Blgr.†

From Careena Station in Western Queensland comes a snake which is of special interest, as it is almost identical with the above species, described by Boulenger from Alexandria in the Northern Territory. Our specimen is pale olive-brown above, and on the body the scales show very numerous minute dots. The lower parts, including the last row of body scales on each side, are yellowish white. A very narrow suture between the præfrontal and second labial prevents the nasal and præocular from being in contact, all four shields almost meeting. Scales in 19 rows. Ventrals 164; anal entire; subcaudals 33. Total length 445 mm.; tail 35. Reg. No. J 12/110.

In other particulars our specimen agrees with Boulenger's description. As that authority notes, this species is allied to *D. suta*, Peters, and *D. frontalis*, Douglas Ogilby. Of the latter snake a distinct variety, *propinqua*, was described by De Vis in the Annals of the Queensland Museum, No. 6, p. 51.

PLATURUS COLUBRINUS, Schneid.

A young specimen, secured off the Queensland coast, has been named as this species after a little hesitation. In some respects it suggests an intermediate form between *P. colubrinus*, Schneid, and *P. laticaudatus*, Linn., but the variability of the lepidosis of these snakes is so considerable that the writer does not feel justified in doing more than note its characteristics, which are as follow:—Rostral deeper than broad; no azygous shield either between the præfrontals

* Annals of the Queensland Museum, No. 6, p. 50. This publication was issued in September, 1905, but no date was attached.

† Ann. and Mag. N.H. 7, 18 (1906), p. 440.

or the internasals; frontal as long as the parietals; one præ- and two post-oculars. Seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye. Temporals 1 + 2. Scales in 23 rows. Ventrals not keeled, 236, the first ten being much smaller; subcaudals 43. There are 63 annuli, which are narrower than the interspaces. Color as in *P. colubrinus*.

Total length 480 mm.; tail 50. Reg. No. J 12/304.

PSEUDECHIS MORTONENSIS, De Vis.

In the description of this snake in the Annals of the Queensland Museum, No. 10, page 24, a somewhat obvious printer's error occurs. The length of the tail should be 200 mm., and not 20. Since this species was described two further specimens have been secured. The Blue-bellied Black Snake is the local name.

PSEUDELAPS SUTHERLANDI, De Vis.*

In many specimens of juvenile *Diemenias* the conspicuous markings are so distinct from the sober uniformity of typical adults that it is not surprising that several forms have been described as new species in other genera, such as *Pseudelaps* and *Furina*. To Mr. D. B. Fry, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, we are indebted for a suggestion that *Pseudelaps sutherlandi*, De Vis, is another case in point, Mr. Fry having examined the type when recently in Brisbane. Were the type a new accession the writer would have no hesitation in referring this supposititious *Pseudelaps* to certain young specimens of *Diemenia* in our collection labelled *D. modesta*, Gunth. But *D. modesta* is recognised as a Westralian species, and although our Museum register records nine specimens as having been secured in Eastern Queensland, several of these which are available for examination have proved to be forms of either *textilis* or *nuchalis*. Doubtless with one of these three species *P. sutherlandi* should be placed, though, with the limited range of young specimens at command, the writer has hesitancy in definitely allocating it. *Pseudelaps bancrofti*, De Vis, † has also affinities with *Diemenia nuchalis* in its juvenile forms. It is hoped that a completer range of specimens will one day give an opportunity for an arbitrary pronouncement on these points.

TYPHLOPS LEUCOPROCTUS, Blgr.

Through the kindness of Mr. J. R. Tosh we are able to note Darnley Island as a new locality for this blindworm. This is the first record, so far as our knowledge goes, of a terrestrial reptile from that island.

DIPLODACTYLUS CILIARIS, Blgr.

From the Bishop of Carpentaria, who bears the honoured name of Gilbert White, a specimen has been received of *Diplodactylus ciliaris*, Blgr., "found on an oleander bush at Normanton." This gecko differs from its normal form, as described by Boulenger, in having its rostral not completely divided medially. Its tail presents quite a distinct appearance from that of a typical specimen, but it is obviously a second edition. Instead of bearing but two series of spines, this

* Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld., 1884, p. 139.

† Annals of the Queensland Museum, No. 10 (1911), p. 25.

tail is covered, except in the anterior portion, with an imbricated series. Towards the tip the spines are much longer and they extend over the sides. In other respects the general contour of this renewed tail presents no marked difference from an original one.

Reg. No. J 12/312.

VARANUS VARIUS, Shaw.

The omnivorous characteristics of Australian Monitor Lizards (Varanidæ) have often been placed on record. A notable example of the voracity of the common *Varanus varius*, Shaw, was recently secured for the Queensland Museum. This shows a large specimen with the remains of *Tachyglossus aculeatus*, Shaw, partially engulfed in its capacious jaws. But the spiny Echidna proved too tough a meal for even a Monitor Lizard, and both animals perished in the struggle.

SILUBOSAURUS ZELLINGI, De Vis.*

Further specimens having been received of the spiny-tailed Egernias—*E. stokesii*, Gray, and *E. depressa*, Gunth., a re-examination has been made of *Silubosaurus zellingi*, De Vis. This confirms the query of Boulenger, in the B.M. Catalogue of Lizards, that this species is not specifically distinct from *Egernia stokesii*. Locality, Barcoo, W.Q.

* Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. 1884, p. 53.